

From the Rochester (N. Y.) Daily Adv.
NEW YORK.

SENATORIAL CONVENTION.—The following resolutions passed at the 5th district senatorial convention, held at Buffalo on the 14th inst.

Resolved, That the committee on the constitutionality of the tariff, composed of Messrs. W. L. G. Smith, J. S. E. Smith, and J. S. E. Smith, be and they are authorized to report to the convention on the 15th inst.

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COMMUNICATIONS.

THE TARIFF.—No. 5.

The present tariff further considered—specific duties explained—It discriminates in favor of the manufacturer against the producer of the raw material; also, in favor of the rich against the middle classes and poor—It taxes labor and exempts capital, and thus tends to build up an aristocracy based upon money and chartered privileges.

In my last communication, my purpose mainly was to explain the three different descriptions of duties, or modes of laying duties, under the existing tariff—viz: the ad valorem, minimum, and specific.

The first, I showed to be a just and impartial mode of laying duties under a tariff—the only mode which should be sanctioned, or submitted to, by an honest republican people.

The second, I proved to be a mendacious, fraudulent, cheating device, resorted to by the friends of protection to enable them to impose upon the consumer a duty four or five times as great as the tariff pretends to impose upon them.

It remains now to consider the nature of specific duties, which is another fraudulent legislative device, invented for the same purpose of compelling the consumer to pay an enormous duty, for the double purpose of raising revenue for the government, and securing a bounty to the manufacturer; while the consumer would never consent to pay one cent more, if he understood the nature of the duty, and the extent to which he was taxed by it.

The specific duty also operates to exempt the rich from taxation, and to increase the burden of taxation upon the poor and middle classes. Its nature, and its mode of operation, I shall now proceed to explain.

A specific duty is a certain, precise, and invariable duty, imposed upon a particular description of articles of the same kind, without reference to their cost or value. Its meaning will be best understood from its application.

For instance: brown sugar pays a specific duty of two and a half cents per pound; that duty is imposed on all kinds of brown sugar, whatever may be their cost in foreign markets, or whatever their quality. The best brown Havana sugar pays no more than the poorest New Orleans or Porto Rico sugar.

Loaf sugar pays a specific duty of six cents per pound, whatever may be its cost in a foreign country, or whatever may be its quality.

Silk fabrics, used for dresses, pay a specific duty of \$2 50 per yard, whether they are coarse or fine, cheap or costly. A silk dress weighing one pound, and costing not more than \$10, pays just as much duty to the government as a pound of rich silk lace, costing \$50.

Molasses pays a duty of four and a half mills per pound—assuming that a gallon weighs ten pounds, is four and a half cents per gallon—whatever may have been its cost in a foreign market, or whatever its quality.

A specific duty, as I have before remarked, is applied to an article, whatever may be its cost or value. Therefore, on some articles it is very heavy in proportion to their value; while, on others, it is very light. But this subject is better illustrated by reference to facts.

The following table exhibits the names of several articles imported under the present tariff, the specific duties imposed upon them, the duty reduced to an average ad valorem duty on the importations of the last three quarters of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1843, as calculated at the Treasury Department, and the ad valorem duty on the same articles, as calculated from actual importations.

| | | | | |
|---|----------|---|-----------|--------|
| Corn in steel wire, per lb. | 24 | " | 41 | 21 to |
| Iron and bolts, exceeding No. 14, per lb. | 6 | " | 62 | 367 to |
| Over 14, and not over No. 24, per lb. | 8 | " | 57 | |
| Over No. 25, per lb. | 11 | " | 54 | |
| Round or square iron, or brass- 3 to 10 lbs of an inch in di- ameter, per lb. | 24 | " | 68 | 920 |
| Iron in sheets, per lb. | 24 | " | 47 | 35 to |
| Sheet iron, per lb. | 24 | " | 187 | 109 to |
| Microfil iron, or casing rods, per lb. | 24 | " | 51 | 368 |
| Iron cables and chains, & parts thereof, per lb. | 24 | " | 80 | 100 |
| Chains other than than cables, per lb. | 4 | " | 93 | 26 to |
| Cut nails, per lb. | 3 | " | 43 | 60 |
| Wrought nails, per lb. | 4 | " | 44 | 40 to |
| Iron wood-screws, per lb. | 2 | " | 63 | 12 to |
| Fine, self-head- ed, per 5,000, | 20 | " | 83 | 60 to |
| Round pins, per lb. | 40 | " | 59 | |
| Cord— Per ton. | 175 | " | 61 | 63 to |
| Glass— Plain, moulded, pressed, or cut per lb. | 10 to 40 | " | 56 to 186 | 132 to |
| Plate or plate glass, per sq ft | 2 to 12 | " | 6 to 343 | 30 to |
| White and red lead, lb. | 4 | " | 64 | 36 |
| Lamp oil, per gallon | 25 | " | 43 | 49 to |
| Sugar— Brown, raw, per lb. | 24 | " | 71 | 65 to |
| Sirup of sugar, per lb. | 24 | " | 161 | |
| Brown, clayed, per lb. | 24 | " | 71 | 71 to |
| Refined or clari- fied, per lb. | 4 | " | 67 | 77 to |
| Hard candy, per lb. | 6 | " | 101 | |
| Soft candy, per lb. | 6 | " | 66 | |
| Alumina— For potash or sulfate, or blown resins, per lb. | 44 mills | | 81 | 35 to |
| Alumina, or other kinds, per lb. | 3 cts. | " | 76 | 79 to |
| Alumina, per bushel | | " | 73 | 70 to |
| Alumina, per lb. | 6 | " | 81 | 108 to |

The above table is made up from the tables appended to the report of the Committee of Ways and Means—26th Congress, 1st session, Dec. 3, 1839.

House of Representatives. The number of articles mentioned in the above table is 100.